



The Advocate of Truth



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

The Word of God 3-5

Questions And Answers 6-7

No One Can Surpass God's Judgment 7-9

Babylon The Great Is Fallen 10-11

Children's Pages 12-15

JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT LOVE

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:30-31).

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

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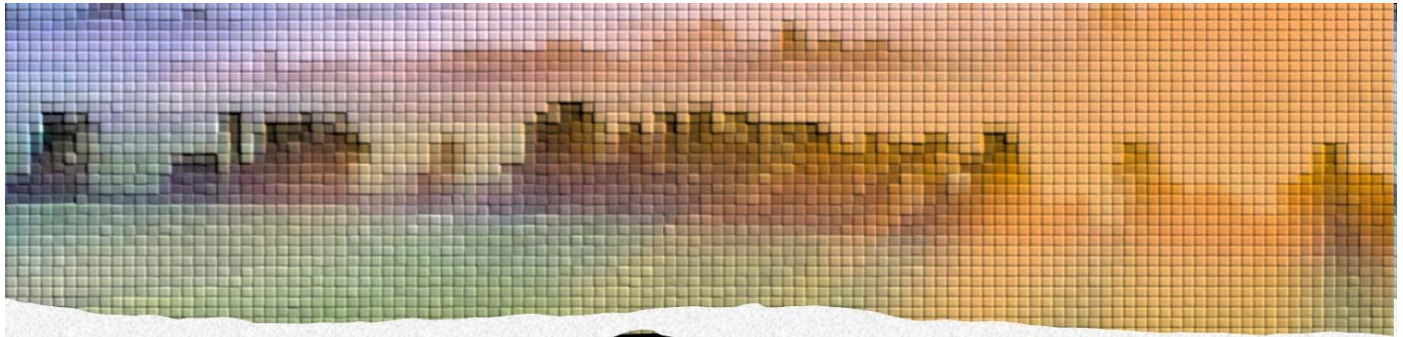
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The Word of God

The letter kills,
but the Spirit gives life

by **David Royer**

II Corinthians 3:6: “Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.”

Before delving into the meaning of this famous quotation, let us examine the context and background of the statement. This verse is part of a letter that the prominent Christian missionary Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth, located in Greece. Paul started this Christian Church 10 to 15 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Some Scholars believe he wrote II Corinthians in approximately 57 AD.

Paul first traveled to Corinth after spending time preaching in Athens. Upon arriving in Corinth, Paul met [Aquila and Priscilla](#), who were tentmakers like Paul, so he lived and worked with them (See [Acts 18:2–3](#)). As was his custom, Paul reasoned in the Jewish synagogue every Sabbath, sharing the truth about Jesus for as long as the local Jews and visiting Gentiles would indulge him. When opposition and abuse arose, Paul took the gospel’s message more directly to the Gentiles. Utilizing the house of Titius Justus, a Gentile who worshiped God and lived next door to the synagogue, Paul continued to share the message of the gospel. Many Corinthians placed their faith in Christ, including the synagogue ruler and his family ([Acts 18:6–8](#)).

Paul spent about eighteen months in Corinth during his [second missionary journey](#). Jews and Gentiles believed Paul’s message about Jesus, and these new believers became the [Corinthian Church](#).

While Paul was in Macedonia during his third missionary journey, Titius Justus brought him news from Corinth that his earlier letter was well received and the Church was progressing and growing.

Paul also learned of problems in the Corinthian Church, including claims of spiritual superiority over one another, suing one another in public courts, confusion about food and worship practices, marital issues, spiritual gifts, generosity, and controversy surrounding Jesus’ resurrection.

False teachers were corrupting the pure doctrines of Christ. Specifically, these false teachers from the Jerusalem area had come to Corinth telling the Saints that they must adopt Jewish practices and follow the laws of Moses, which was contrary to Paul’s teachings. Much of II Corinthians addresses the problems caused by these false teachers. Source: (above six paragraphs) Dates and history from “What is the significance of Corinth in the Bible? (n.d.). Retrieved November 9, 2023 from: <https://www.gotquestions.org/Corinth-in-the-Bible.html>.

The phrase “the letter killeth” becomes more apparent with this background. Paul writes to the Church in Corinth, reminding them that the Old Covenant (letter), containing the laws of Moses, has ended and even the existing Ten Commandments are not enough for salvation.

God’s law is the unchanging standard by which all are judged. But Paul says the law condemns us and cannot save us without the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (See Romans 8:1-4). “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.” (Romans 7:6)

FURTHER EXPLANATION

The Old Covenant is God’s “working arrangement” with Israel. He had chosen them for a unique relationship that He did not have with any other group of people on earth. The Israelites were to remain loyal to God, obeying Him and worshipping Him alone. If they did, He promised to bless them; if they did not, He promised they would be chastised. (See Deuteronomy Chapter 27 & 28). God established a sacrificial system that would allow The Children of Israel to be cleansed (temporarily) from their sins—but these sacrifices for atonement had to be repeated over and over and be conducted by a Priest. That priest was their middle-man, a go-between, and a mediator between man and God.

Through the unceasing sacrifice of animals, God was burning into the heart of every man an awareness of their own sin. The sacrificial provisions in Leviticus taught the Israelites that God can be approached with the blood of a worthy substitute. And while all of these sacrifices might seem like an unbearable burden to us, wouldn’t you be relieved, as an Israelite, to know that, instead of paying the penalty for sin yourself, God would accept a substitute in your place? Source: <https://hope4israel.org/the-sacrificial-system/>

A “sacrifice” is offering something precious for a cause or a reason. Making atonement is satisfying someone or something for an offense committed. God said in Leviticus 17:11: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have

given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

The New Covenant refers to the gospel “good news” and replaces the Old Covenant. It is available to all Christians. When God sent his Son to fulfill His plan of salvation, Jesus’ death at Calvary created the “perfect sacrifice”. It was perfect in that our redemption was purchased “...with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and spot.” (I Peter 1:19). Jesus could atone for the sins of humanity because His Blood alone was sinless. Being perfect made future sacrifices unnecessary, and He replaced the Priest as our mediator before God, as He is now our High Priest.

Jesus’ dying words on the cross: “It is finished” (John 19:30), and the simultaneous destruction of the temple veil (Matthew 27:50-51), which is symbolic of allowing the common people to have direct access to God, confirmed the end of Moses’ ceremonial laws. Never again would the blood of bulls, rams, sheep, and goats temporarily cleanse men from their sin. Only by accepting Jesus’ blood, shed at Calvary, for the remission of sins, can we stand before God reconciled and covered in the righteousness of Jesus. (See II Corinthians 5:18-21).

THE SPIRIT GIVETH LIFE

The Old Covenant was a lifeless code of moral demands, but the New Covenant manifests God’s power and the process for us to obtain salvation. God gives the exact moral instructions in both covenants – but in the New Covenant, He uses His Holy Spirit to provide us with the motivation and power to be like His Son, Jesus.

The Holy Spirit, also known as the Holy Ghost, is the power of God. The words power and spirit can be used interchangeably. Through His Spirit, God created the universe (Job 26:13) and gave life to humanity (Job 33:4). God’s power gave inspiration to writers of Scripture (II Peter 1:19-21). God’s Spirit gave life to Jesus (Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:20) and enabled Him to perform miracles (Matthew 12:28). Through that same power, God raised Jesus from the dead to immortality (Romans 1:4;

Ephesians 1:19-20). These divine works were different in purpose, but the one Spirit of God was the unchanging medium for performing these works. Source: <https://mncogconference.org/lesson-t06>

When we believe in Christ, the Spirit works in many ways to regenerate us, with one common goal: to make us more like Him. God saves us from death and grants us a path to eternal life through the power of His Holy Spirit. Jesus confirms this relationship between the Holy Spirit and life: "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63), and "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

When you have time, read Romans Chapter 8. It reinforces that the Spirit of God:

- gives life
- dwells in the believer
- is received by the believer
- bears witness with our spirit
- raised Christ from the dead

In conclusion, we have learned from Paul's exhortations to the Church in Corinth that we are under a New Covenant with God. The law needs to be placed in our hearts and drilled into our minds through the power of the Holy Spirit. When this becomes our experience, we no longer are condemned by the law, as the Holy Spirit makes our assurance of salvation certain through our belief and faith in the only begotten Son of God, Jesus the Christ.

THE SHIP OF LIFE

***By Deborah Durham
Woodburn, Kentucky***

***It is easy to get ruffled
When rough winds shake your sails,
When you see the billows surging
And you hear the roaring gales,
When you feel the brunt of nature
As it plows across the sky,
Let a prayer be your distress flare
And then quickly heave a sigh.
And let that sigh remind you
That the very breath you draw
Is given you with purpose -
Even storms obey His Law.***

***Your Captain sails the flagship-
You are sailing for the King-
You are on a great commission-
Love's rich cargo you must bring.
And your Captain gives you courage
To stand bravely at your post;
It is in His brave example
You should make your only boast.***



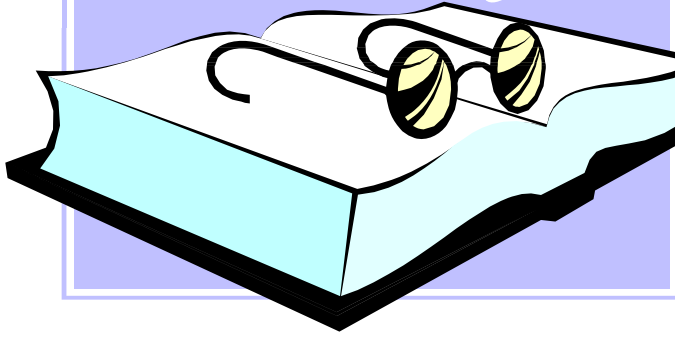
***O, your ship's a gallant beauty
Like a night of starry skies,
Like the mountains in the distance
When you see them start to rise.***

***You must not impede the progress
Of the sailing of your ship;
You must be wise and prudent-
It's a long, momentous trip.
There will never be occasion
To cast an anxious glance about,
Unless your hull's encrusted
With pernicious fears and doubt,
Unless your keel is tilted
Toward a wrong and wayward route,
And you're navigating by a chart
The King has not mapped out.***

***You must check your vessel's progress-
Keep a watchful, daily log-
If you find you're in the doldrums,
You must dissipate the fog.
You must never drop your anchor
Where iniquities beset;
The one who loans some pleasures there
Collects on every debt.
You must never pause to worry,
Fear or frown or flinch or fret,
But with steady, onward sailing,
You will reach your harbor yet.***

BIBLE

Study



Questions and Answers



Question: We need light to guide us in the right way. What is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path?

Answer: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Question: Who is the light of the world, and what will that light do for us?

Answer: "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Question: How are the scriptures symbolized as they afford substance and satisfaction to the believer at all stages of spiritual development?

Answer: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (1 Peter 2:2).

Question: What is to be desired rather than fine gold and silver?

Answer: "More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter than honey and the honey-comb" (Psalm 19:10).

"All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing forward or perverse in them" (Proverbs 8:8).

"Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather choice gold" (Proverbs 8:10).

"My fruit is better than gold, yea, than the gold, and my revenue than choice silver" (Proverbs 8:19).

Question: What two things does God say His Word is like?

Answer: "Is not my word like a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29).

Question: What is the Word of God more powerful than?

Answer: "For the word of God is quick, and powerful,

and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

Question: What is the sword of the Spirit?

Answer: "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17).

Question: With what did God beget us?

Answer: "Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures" (James 1:18).

Question: How is the Word of God compared to seed?

Answer: "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23).

"When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. he also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful, But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty" (Matthew 13:19-23).

****Answers to Birds of the Bible page 14: ravens; raven/dove; hen; sparrow; screech owl; turtledoves/pigeons; peacocks/ostrich; stork; eagles; sparrows; dove; peacocks; great owl/vultures; partridge; pelican/owl.**

****Answer to Patience: Be patient toward all men.**

No One Can Surpass God's Judgment

By Bibi Shimoon Allicock
Guyana, South America

Only God knows, sees, feels, understands and envisions everything about us and only He can give us a final and just judgment. Only He can surpass the way man may judge a matter and we may not be judged with justice and equity according to man's judgment. The songwriter declared "though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet." God is always the Boss and what He makes crooked no man can make straight, meaning God has the final judgment in everything. "Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked?" "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Ecclesiastes 7:13; Isaiah 55:8-9).

Man would desire to do us much wrong, but only what God allows to happen does happen. At times when things happen among men, they want to quarrel, fight, and even kill, but God instructed us to be humble and wait on Him, because His recompense of reward is greater than anything else. "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:17-21).

When we look at the ways that God directed the Patriarchs, He can also give us the same direction because He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He definitely doesn't change. God's Word is yea, and nay, amen. Whatever He says, He does, and He does not lie. "For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,...Wherein God,

willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:" (Hebrews 6:13,17-18).

Since no one can surpass God's judgment, we can all acknowledge that His promises are sure. When man promises us something and some things happen that they forgot, or as time passes and the promise did not materialize, they make all kinds of excuses, but God will make certain His promises materialize seeing He cannot lie, or tempt any man. "...let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man) God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world?...As it is written, There is none righteous...There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God...Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood:...There is no fear of God before their eyes...And the way of peace have they not known:...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" (Romans 3:4-6,10, first part,11,13-15,18,17,23).

As man's promises are based upon lies, deceit, fraud, etc., God's promises are sure and He is not willing that any should perish. That is why He foreordained the plan of salvation, before the foundation of the world, because He knew man would sin and come short of His glory. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance...And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear: Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last

times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God" (II Peter 3:9; I Peter 1:17-21).

We can acknowledge that definitely there will be a day of judgment where the unjust will be punished. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:" Let us therefore run the race with patience, because the race is not to the swift nor the battle to the strong, but to those who wait patiently upon the Lord, and do the things necessary for salvation, expressing our love towards our fellowmen, being hospitable. We are to love our enemies despite the ways they treat us. And have love towards God, to love Him with all our heart, and soul, and mind, not making excuses and placing things and people before Him. When we are called upon to do something, we must be like the disciples who left everything and followed Jesus. We must acknowledge that we have to take up our crosses daily and follow our Lord, doing what is required of us. He gave us the Ten Commandments and statutes and ordinances and gives us commands whereby we must live accordingly, and be merciful, courteous, honest, sincere, hospitable, and most of all be charitable. "Charity (or love) suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth:" (II Peter 2:9; I Corinthians 13:4-8, first part).

When we look at the hospitality that the Prophet Abraham had shown unto the angels who came to give him the great tidings of him and his wife having their own child from their consumation in their old age, although it seemed impossible, but with God it was not. "And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre:...And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, And said, my Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant: Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree:...And he took butter, and milk, and the calf which he had dressed, and set it before

them; and he stood by them under the tree, and they did eat" (Genesis 18:1, first part, 2-4,8).

Hebrews 13:2 indicates unto us to make certain we entertain strangers because we could get a chance to entertain angels as well. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." We must not be selfish, but always willing to share the little that we have as the widow woman did, and God's blessings will surpass that of the richest tycoon. "For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth." And in the book of James we have an indication that the rains came after three years and six months, depicting the length of time the widow's morsel was blessed that she, her son, and Elijah ate. "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word...Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain," (I Kings 17:14,1; James 5:17-18, first part).

In contrast between the widow woman and the rich tycoon, she had victuals until after the famine ended, but the rich tycoon died because of his greediness, leaving all his wealth unto others, and not being able to enjoy it. "...The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:...And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." The Psalmist also expounded on boastings as well. "Why boasteth thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? the goodness of God endureth continually...Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah...God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah. The righteous also shall see, and fear, and shall

laugh at him. Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness." Likewise the wise man who had riches above all that was in the earth, before and after him, admonished us to acknowledge and understand, when we die, we can perish, and leave everything that we had owned and no one is able to come unto us bringing us remembrance of the things we had. That is why he emphasized not to boast of the morrow because only God's judgment surpasses anything under the sun, because everything is His and nothing really belongs unto us. "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth...Wherefore I perceive that there is nothing better, than that a man should rejoice in his own works; for that is his portion: for who shall bring him to see what shall be after him?" (Luke 12:16, last part, 18-21; Psalm 52:1,3,5-7; Proverbs 27:1; Ecclesiastes 3:22).

When Jesus was in Simon's house, He upbraided him concerning hospitality, and exalted and forgave the woman who was very hospitable unto Him. "And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:44-48). Amen.

JESUS SPEAKS OUT COMMANDMENTS

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35).

"If ye love me, keep my commandments"
(John 14:15).

Babylon the Great is Fallen

By David DeLong

In Revelation, chapter 17, verses 3-5 we find a harlot woman who is riding upon a scarlet colored beast full of names of blasphemy. Verses 4-5 read: "And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

We learn in verse 18 who this woman is: "And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth." Furthermore, we learn a little more of the identity of this woman in verse 9: "And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth." Putting the facts of the woman together, we learn the true identity of who she is.

First, a woman in the Scriptures can represent a church (see Revelation, chapter 12). A harlot woman, who is one laden with sin, therefore can represent a fallen church. Second, this woman also represents a city as we learned from verse 18. Third, this church/city is one that sits upon 7 mountains. Rome, for centuries, has been called the city that sits upon seven mountains or hills. Thus, the only conclusion that we can come up with, is that this woman represents the Roman Catholic Church. Perhaps, more precisely, this church/city is Vatican City which is within the city of Rome. And, the woman is designated by the term "Babylon" being written upon her forehead.

In chapter 18 we find where this woman is destroyed. "And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is

become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities" (Revelation 18:1-5).

When we go to Isaiah, chapter 47 we see another Babylon. This was the ancient city of Babylon of which the Babylon in Revelation 18 is the antitype. In verses 8-9 we read: "Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children: But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments."

Now, notice the wording of the antitypical Babylon in Revelation 18:7-8: "How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her." So, in one day (whether a prophetic day or a literal day) God is going to send a destructive judgment upon this woman. Going back to 18:4 God's people are given this definite instruction: "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

Being a partaker of her sins involves believing and practicing any of her doctrines and traditions which are against the Bible. Included within these traditions is keeping Sunday instead of the seventh day Sabbath for worshipping upon. The Roman Catholic Church, perhaps before it was known by this name, under the emperor Constantine, broke with Sabbath observance to keeping Sunday. Many other churches have followed this tradition. In fact, many churches have followed a number of the Roman Catholic traditions which are against the teachings of the Scriptures, and thus are her daughters.

In Isaiah 47:15 we read concerning the ancient city of Babylon: "Thus shall they be unto thee with whom thou hast laboured, even thy merchants, from thy youth: they shall wander every one to his quarter; none shall save thee." And in Revelation 18:11-19 we read: "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men. And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all. The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, And saying, Alas, alas, that great city, that was clothed in fine linen, and purple, and scarlet, and decked with gold, and precious stones, and pearls! For in one hour so great riches is come to nought. And every shipmaster, and all the company in ships, and sailors, and as many as trade by sea, stood afar off, And cried when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, What city is like unto this great city! And they cast dust on their heads, and cried, weeping and wailing, saying, Alas, alas, that great city, wherein were made rich all that had ships in the sea by reason of her costliness! for in one hour is she made desolate." So we see that like as it was in ancient Babylon, those who do business with "Babylon the Great" will not be able to save her from destruction.

Notice in verse 13 of Revelation 18, that "Babylon the Great" deals in "souls of men". This is perhaps the most tragic element of this church that the souls of men are dealt with as if they were merchandise. How does the Roman Catholic Church deal with the souls of men? By holding sway over them with false doctrines and traditions which eventually destroys them in the lake of fire.

Judgment will come surely and swiftly upon this harlot woman as we find in Revelation 18:20-24: "Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her. And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all. And the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers, and trumpeters, shall be heard no more at all in thee; and no craftsman, of whatsoever craft he be, shall be found any more in thee; and the sound of a millstone shall be heard no more at all in thee; And the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived. And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth."

All nations have, indeed, been deceived by the false teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church and her offspring harlots. She has also been a persecuting power, shedding the blood of many of the Lord's saints. Let us be diligent to examine ourselves so that we do not partake of her sins and, thus, we do not receive of her plagues!

Wrath

Sometimes we're filled with wrong wrath,
But we're walking down the wrong path;
Let God fill your heart, with a peace that won't part,
And let His love give you a bath.

LESSON I

OUR MONEY

Scripture Reading: Luke 18:18-30.

Golden Text: I Timothy 6:10 (first part).

"For the love of money is the root of all evil."

1. Is money the first thing for which we should seek? Matthew 6:33.
2. If we would seek to be rich, into what do we fall? I Timothy 6:9.
3. With what should we be content or satisfied? I Timothy 6:8.
4. What part of our money belongs to God? Genesis 28:22; Malachi 3:10.
5. Does God love people more if they are able to give more than others? Mark 12:41-44.
6. Did Judas's love of money cause him to betray Christ? Matthew 26:15.
7. Instead of wanting or coveting money, what should be our desire to follow? I Timothy 6:11.
8. What did Jesus tell His disciples about a rich man? Matthew 19:23-24.

NOTE: The eye of a sewing needle is very small and would be impossible to go through, however, Jesus is referring to the opening of a gate. It was difficult for a camel to enter this, but not impossible.

9. What did Jesus tell the rich, young man who wanted eternal life? Matthew 19:21-22.

LESSON II

IDLENESS

Scripture Reading: Matthew 20:1-8.

Golden Text: Matthew 12:36.

"But I say unto you, That every idle word that man shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."

1. Should we speak idle words or should they be words of blessing to others? Matthew 12:36.
2. What insect is given as an example to us? Proverbs 6:6-8.
3. Does an idle person learn to be a tattler or busy-body? I Timothy 5:13.
4. Does the Lord hate the ways of an idle person who speaks lies and makes trouble between brethren? Proverbs 6:16, 19.
5. What are some things we should do and not do? Proverbs 31:26-27.
6. From what should we ask the Lord to cleanse us? Psalm 19:12, 14.

LESSON III

LOVE

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:25-37.

Golden Text: Mark 12:30 (first part).

"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart."

1. What is the greatest commandment? Mark 12:30-31.

NOTE: All Ten Commandments are part of these two commandments.

2. Who else are we commanded to love? Leviticus 19:18.

- 3. How do we know we are a child of God? I John 4:7-8.
- 4. Who was the one who loved us so much that He gave His life for us? Galatians 2:20.
- 5. Could we have a greater love than to lay down our life for our friends? John 15:13.
- 6. How can we show God we love him? I John 5:3.
- 7. Love covers all our sins. What does hatred do? Proverbs 10:12.
- 8. If anyone says "I Love God:" and he hates his brother, what is he? I John 4:20.
- 9. If we love God, do all things work together for our good? Romans 8:28.

glorify God? Psalm 98:5-6.

6. Who sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men"? Luke 2:13-14.

7. The Heavenly Choir will again sing when Jesus is to be made King of the earth. What kind of musical instrument will they use? Revelation 5:8-9.



LESSON IV

MUSIC

Scripture Reading: I Chronicles 25:5-7; Psalm 98:4-6.

Golden Text: Psalm 100:1.

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands."

- 1. How many people praised the Lord with musical instruments in the house of the Lord when David made Solomon King? I Chronicles 23:5.
- 2. What are some of the instruments used to praise the Lord during this time? I Chronicles 25:6.
- 3. Have people always praised the Lord with musical instruments? Genesis 4:21.
- 4. Should we make a joyful noise unto the Lord and sing praise to Him? Psalm 98:4.
- 5. If we have musical talent, should we not use it to

GOD'S CANDLES

I sat beside my window
 One black and rainy night;
 When suddenly I saw above
 A tiny, twinkling light.
 A little star with shining face
 Peeked from behind a cloud;
 Before long others came,
 And soon there was a crowd.
 They chased the stormy clouds away
 Until the sky was bright;
 Once more, God's little candles
 Were the rulers of the night.

-Mildred Sallee



One night Jesus was eating supper with His friends in the Upper Room. He told them that all of them would leave Him, and He would be left alone. Peter at once began to boast, "I am ready to go with You to prison or even to die for You."

"O Peter," said Jesus sadly, "before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times and will even say that you do not know Me" (Mark 14:30).

That seemed impossible to Peter. But before long, trouble began. A crowd of wicked men came after Jesus and the disciples ran off into the darkness for fear the men would take them too. But Peter and John followed Jesus far enough behind so that they would be safe.

When Jesus was taken into a ruler's house, Peter and John stood outside in the yard. It was a cold night. Soldiers and servants were standing about also, waiting to see what was to happen to Jesus

They built a fire to warm themselves. Peter sat down by the fire with them to try to keep warm. One of the young women noticed him. She came closer. She looked into his face. "This man was with Jesus," she said.

Peter was frightened. "I do not know Him," he said. After a little while another servant noticed him. "You were one of those men with Jesus, he said.

"I am not one of them," said Peter in a loud voice. An hour later when Peter was standing about the fire talking with some of the soldiers, another servant pointed to him. "Truly this man was one of those with Jesus," he declared. "For he talks just like the others. I can tell."

Peter was afraid that they knew. He said crossly, "I do not know what you are talking about." And just then he heard, "Cock-a-doodle-do! Cock-a-doodle-do!" The first rooster was crowing in the darkness to say that daylight would soon be coming. Jesus was being led from one house to another across the hallway. He looked down at Peter.

Suddenly Peter remembered! He remembered what Jesus had said, "O Peter, before the rooster crows for the new day you will three times say that you do not even know Me." And he had done it! He had three times said that he did not know Jesus, his best Friend! Peter felt as if he could never be happy again. He went outside in the cold where no one would see him. There he cried and cried. He wept bitterly. He thought he never could be happy again because of those three terrible lies he had told.

But we are glad the story does not end there. After cruel men put Jesus on the cross, He died and was buried for three days, but He came back to life again, Then one of the very first persons He came to talk with was Peter! Jesus knew how sorry Peter felt, and Jesus forgave him. Ever after that, Peter was the best friend he could be to Jesus. He was always glad for a chance to say that he was Jesus's friend, no matter what people did to him. He was never afraid again.

BIRDS OF THE BIBLE

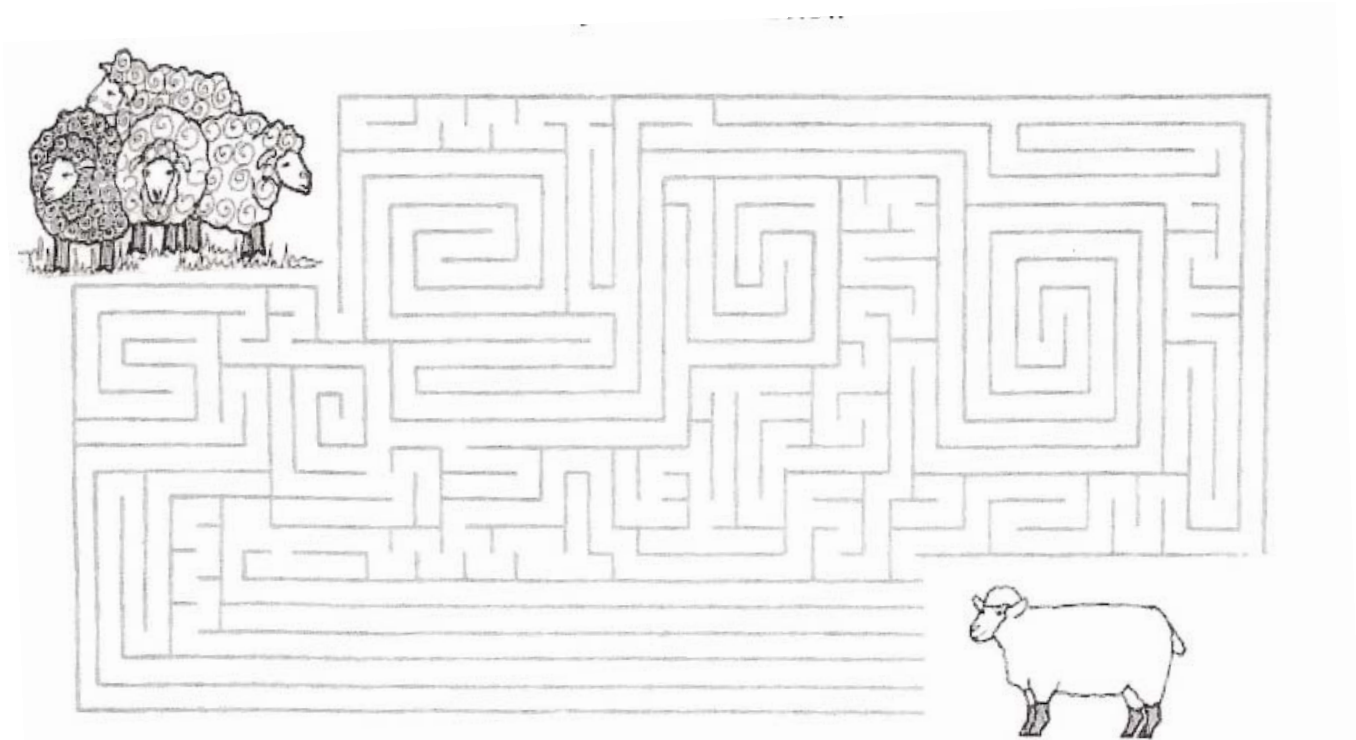
- I Kings 17:6* _____
- Genesis 8:7-8* _____
- Luke 13:34* _____
- Psalms 84:3* _____
- Isaiah 34:14* _____
- Luke 2:24* _____
- Job 39:13* _____
- Psalms 104:17* _____
- Isaiah 40:31* _____
- Matthew 10:29* _____
- Matthew 3:16* _____
- II Chronicles 9:21* _____
- Isaiah 34:15* _____
- I Samuel 26:20* _____
- Psalms 102:6* _____

THE SHEEPFOLD

The little lamb would like to get into the sheepfold. He must get to it without crossing any line.

Can you help him out? A VERSE TO REMEMBER -

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine" (John 10:14).



PATIENCE - use the international morse code to decipher a Bible verse about patience - I Thessalonians 5:14

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